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The recent (since 18 April 1955) Hegedüs government succeeding Nagy could not reverse the trend entirely. Although he is extremely severe in the enforcement of the decrees concerning crop collection and taxes in the villages, Hegedüs, unlike the pre-Nagy Communist governments, continues not to discriminate against the small- and medium- landholders.

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The majority of the heavy agricultural work is performed with teams of horses or cows, rarely oxen. The equipment used is up-to-date, although wooden implements were used as late as the end of the nineteenth century. A full mechanization of agriculture would call for more emphasis on this type of machinery than the present status of Hungarian industry permits. Nevertheless, there has been an impressive increase in agricultural machinery, although complaints about the poor quality of domestic machines are common.

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The number of agricultural machine stations and tractors in Hungary was:

	MTS	tractors
1950	361	6,681
1952	364	9,723
1954	364	11,298

The equipment of the average MTS is 36 tractors, 23 threshing machines, 6 harvesters, 4 traction engines, 2 combines and several smaller machines for specific purposes.

11: Kardyi E-4.5 (no date) 1931? EC1 Hungary EC1

241 decided by the yield of the crop how the winter purchases
527 and the many prospective marriages will turn out.

In order that all who need it may share in the
[407] blessings of the harvest, the use of harvesting machinery is not tolerated in Hungary. The role of the labourer has remained an essential part in cutting the crops, and thanks to this, one may still see and admire the
[412] spectacle of swinging scythes working their way into the fields, felling the swaying wheat into rows that follow the undulating line of valley and hill. After the men come the plucking girls, whose deft and tireless hands bind the wheat into sheaves and pile them up into huge cross-like formations. Harvest must end in the shortest possible time, because the ripe ears easily spill the heavy grain, and it would be a bitter thing to see the price of life falling to waste. From daybreak until the last faint rays of the declining moon harvesting goes on, and once the crop is cut the sheaves are piled upon the carriages and taken to the farmyard to be threshed and preserved in the granary. It is a wonderful sight to watch the immense loads pass by, drawn by a double yoke of long-horned Hungarian oxen, while the slanting rays of the setting sun throw a halo of golden dust round the glittering mass of fresh-cut wheat.

527 As soon as the last of the wheat-crop has been cut, the harvesters prepare for the harvest festival — a feast vibrating with the anticipation of rest and recreation — a ceremony permeated with satisfaction and gratitude, to be followed by the merriment of unbounded celebration. Of the longest stalks of unthreshed wheat a harvest wreath or crown is woven, or, in some regions, a monstrance, a tower, or a bell. The harvest wreath is taken home from the fields hanging on a pole which is placed on the shoulders of the prettiest girls. It is then presented

12: Free Europe Committee U-4 (no date) 1954 EC1 Hungary EC1

THE OIL INDUSTRY IN THE HUNGARIAN ECONOMY

While mechanization in agriculture progressed, 211 241
new tractor stations being set up and 4,500 tractors added 407 ●
to an existing stock of 12,500, the plan fell short of its goal 433
in the agricultural sector, with the exception of livestock 185
which reached the prewar level. Crop production in 1949
reached only 77 percent of prewar, a near disaster.

In mining and metallurgy the plan aimed at 38 per- 316
cent above the prewar level. It called for an output valued 327
at 1.5 billion forints compared with 1.2 billion in 1938 and 328
an estimated 2.0 billion in 1943/44. In 1949 Hungary pro- 433
duced 11,844,000 tons of coal and lignite, 293,000 tons of iron ore, 428,000 tons of pig iron, 850,000 tons of steel, 561,000 tons of bauxite, 17,000 tons of aluminum, 45,000 tons of manganese ore concentrates, and smaller amounts of copper and lead ores. With the exception of oil and a few other smaller items the plan was reached or surpassed.

The output of power ran about 20 percent ahead of 377
the plan and reached 2.36 billion kilowatt-hours in 1949 433
compared with 1.4 and 2.1 billion kilowatt-hours in 1938 and 1943 respectively.

The gross output of manufacturing, excluding elec- 185
tricity, was to be more than doubled to a level of 16.5 bil- 433
lion forints in 1949. While it was officially claimed that the plan was overfulfilled by 21 percent, which would put the value of the 1949 manufacturing output (including electricity) at 20.8 billion forints, this claim is definitely too high and should be revised downward, to perhaps 14 billion forints or about 1.2 billion dollars.

With the exception of the leather industry it was claimed that the output of all others exceeded the 1938 level by margins ranging from 12 percent in textiles to 112 percent in engineering in 1949. Nothing was said of the refining industry. A drastic shift to investment materials [454]
at the expense of consumer goods is apparent.

Prior to the end of World War II Hungarian indus- 382
try had used relatively large quantities of fuel oil. Reconstruction and expansion during the plan period suggest